

CPYRGHT

Kennedy Goes to New York for Tough Task— To Try to Halt the Rockefeller Bandwagon

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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NEW YORK, Oct. 11—President Kennedy flew here today on what is widely regarded as a hopeless task—to try to halt the Rockefeller bandwagon.

On hand to greet the President when he landed at La Guardia Airport at 2 p. m. was a handsome 43-year-old man who fingered his hat nervously and seemed somewhat lost in the crowd.

He was Robert Morris Morgenthau, who has been given the unenviable assignment of trying to unseat Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and thus remove him as a threat to Mr. Kennedy's reelection in 1964.

A pleasant man with a good education and a reputation for intelligence as a lawyer, Morgenthau nevertheless has few if any of the attributes of a successful politician.

Friends describe him as "an awfully nice fellow," which is hardly the description of a political winner. Moreover they tell him to his face that he should get tougher.

He wasn't even angry at his staff the other day when through somebody's fault he stood around a hotel lobby waiting to meet Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and Johnson was nowhere to be found.

Photographers had a field day taking pictures of the lonely Democrat who waited and waited. The New York papers pictured the incident as a huge joke on Morgenthau, but he dismissed it as a mixup in scheduling.

Greatly Exaggerated

It was all greatly exaggerated, he said today, smiling slightly.

Morgenthau doesn't brag much about his ability to stop the ebullient governor, who

won by more than half a million votes four years ago.

But the Democrats, despite their weakness here, have a "well-balanced ticket." And observers say they still have a chance.

Morgenthau is Jewish, the son of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury and grandson of Woodrow Wilson's Ambassador to Turkey.

The Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor is Mayor John J. Burns of Birmingham, a Catholic. He also was on hand to greet the President and looked more the part of the successful politician than Morgenthau.

The third prominent Demo-

crat at the airport for the welcoming ceremonies was Ed-

ward R. Dudley, Manhattan borough president and former Ambassador to Liberia. Dudley is a Negro and the Protestant on the ticket. He is running for attorney general.

Mr. Kennedy chose to drive into the city through Harlem where the turnout was more than respectable although the route was announced only late yesterday.

A good many thousand saw the President and Morgenthau in open cars as they drove from 125th Street down Second Avenue to 72d Street, then west to the Carlyle Hotel, where the President stays in New York.

Donovan on Ticket

The other principal Democratic candidate is James B. Donovan, a Catholic, who is running against Sen. Jacob K. Javits.

Donovan has been in Cuba trying to effect the release of the 1100 Bay of Pigs prisoners. He has done almost no campaigning and is known principally as the man who negotiated the exchange of Col. Rudolph Abel, the Russian spy, for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers.

Donovan is scheduled to meet Javits in a TV debate Oct. 21. If by then Donovan has succeeded in his Cuban mission he will at least excite more than a little curiosity.

Rockefeller has declined to debate Morgenthau. After conferring with the President at the Carlyle and making some TV tapes with the President, Morgenthau told reporters that Mr. Kennedy mentioned Rockefeller's unwillingness to debate.

The Governor's refusal to debate "will continue to grow as an issue," Morgenthau said. The Governor's arrogant attitude on the debate issue

will be offensive to many voters," Morgenthau said.

The Democrats have one other strong argument in this campaign: Morgenthau's wife, Martha. Because her husband had to stay here today to meet the President, she flew to Buffalo to make a speech in his behalf.

The Morgenthaus have four children and expect a fifth in January.

No Democrat says anything publicly about Rockefeller's divorce, but Mrs. Morgenthau on the rostrum is a constant reminder.